

Honolulu Star-Bulletin

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EDITOR

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The Hour For Americans to Prove Themselves

The time has come in Honolulu, as it has come to every American community, when those who call themselves American must prove true or counterfeit.

There is no twilight zone in which half-Americans can stand. We are in a situation whose seriousness some people evidently do not realize. We are in a situation where divided patriotism will not be tolerated and adulterated Americanism will not be long permitted.

We are in a situation where the man who qualifies his Americanism must stand under the suspicion that he cannot be depended upon for the full loyal service of a patriot whose country's call comes before every other thing in this world.

German-Americans of Honolulu last night declared for a referendum vote before our government declares war on another nation.

Their action is plainly occasioned by the present crisis with Germany. The very resolution they passed was dictated not by local German-Americans but by the National German American Alliance, through its president, Dr. C. J. Hexamer. Dr. Hexamer cabled them what to do and they obeyed.

The Star-Bulletin has spoken with sympathy of the unfortunate position of German-Americans, torn between the love of their fatherland in its own hour of crisis, and duty to their adopted country. It becomes now the duty of a newspaper to speak in criticism of an organization whose activities are obviously devoted to hampering the government of the United States in its preparations to meet the results of a crisis Germany has forced.

German-Americans did not call for a referendum vote in Germany on July 28, 1914, when Berlin sent its ultimatum to St. Petersburg.

They did not call for a referendum vote in Germany in August 1, when Berlin declared war on Russia.

They did not call for a referendum vote on August 4, when Great Britain demanded that Germany observe Belgian neutrality unreservedly, and Berlin rejected the ultimatum. They did not call for the German chief of staff to halt mobilization while a vote was taken as to whether Germany would plunge into the maelstrom already whirling toward immense destruction of life and property.

German-Americans did not call for a vote of the people prior to February 18, 1915, when Berlin decreed its new submarine war within the announced "war-zone."

Nor did they call for a vote of the German people prior to January 31, 1917, when Berlin served upon the world notice that she would henceforth carry on a program of ruthlessness at sea.

Every military step Germany took at the beginning of the war—including the violation of Belgium—was justified by Germans and German-Americans on the ground that the safety of the German nation was at stake; the enemy preparing for war; not a moment could be wasted.

WORLD-WIRELESS.

Next to be consummated in the achievements of world-wireless is the opening of the Pearl Harbor station, which will be among the most powerful in the world.

A few days ago the opening of the San Diego naval radio plant directed attention to the rapid strides wireless is making—strides of peculiar interest to Hawaii, where the first commercial wireless plant of any importance was established. This, by the way, is something which newcomers may not know. The fact is that the inter-island wireless in Hawaii led the world in the commercial radio field. From it developed the Mutual Wireless system, which today covers the Hawaiian group, a large part of the South Seas, and connects Australia and this Pacific outpost of Uncle Sam's. The Federal Wireless and the Marconi system came in, and the Marconi recently marked a new era by opening communication with Japan. Next in the list of notable achievements was the opening of the San Diego station and soon Pearl Harbor will add its link to Uncle Sam's chain that ultimately will be able to encircle the world by radio.

A current magazine, Popular Mechanics, notes that the opening of the new radio station at Funabashi, near Tokyo, has connected the Orient with the Occident and reduced the minimum rate for trans-pacific commercial communications from \$1.21 a word—the cable charge—to 40 cents. At present the Japanese-United States service is confined to San Francisco, Hawaii and Japan. The distance between the Golden Gate plant and that at Kahuku, Hawaii, is 2087 miles, while in jumping from the latter place to the Japanese station the waves travel 1140 miles.

The idea of circling the globe with wireless plants was evolved about four years ago. It has brought about the erection of the New Jersey stations at New Brunswick and Belmar, which work with corresponding stations in England, and the construction of Marconi sending and receiving plants at Boston and Marshall, Calif., which link the Pacific coast with the Koko Head and Kahuku installations, and two similar plants to be established at Manila, stations planned for Marion and Chatham, Mass., are to connect with Staranger and Naerbo in Norway.

They justified immediate action on the ground of national defense.

And yet, at the very moment when Germany's action has forced the United States to prepare for war, the German American Alliance proposes to poll the voters of the nation. They would have this nation submit its military defense to a political program proposed by German sympathizers, and to a political campaign in which it is quite plain there would be plenty of German sympathizers willing to block the United States government's preparations for possible war.

There is no justification for the action of the German-Americans last night.

All Americans except a few jingoists deplore war, view with deepest sadness and regret the near approach of their country to war, hope against hope that it will not be necessary for this nation to conduct hostilities against Germany or any other nation.

But in this hour of crisis it is plainly the duty of Americans to stand squarely by their government. Negotiations with Germany have failed and Germany has shown conclusively that she will not observe her pledges to the United States.

It is particularly the duty of Americans so to conduct themselves that this nation will stand before the world solidly for humanity and right, truly the United States.

Such action as that of the German-Americans—at the bidding of the national body—encourages Germany to believe this nation is not united.

It is not only an illogical, unreasonable action, but it is a dangerous action.

One of the speakers is quoted as referring to the Civil War and the possibility that if war is now declared on Germany, another internal conflict will rend the United States. He denies any such reference was made at the meeting, but does not deny it was made in conversation with a reporter afterward.

Such talk, before a meeting or at any other time, is rabid rot. There will be no civil strife if we go to war with Germany. The great mass of German-Americans are not followers of kaiserism, and they will not strike their adopted country. They will repudiate those who encourage civil strife just as they repudiated the so-called "German issue" at the polls last November.

What became of all the great German-American vote which was to go to Hughes as a protest against Wilson?

There never was such a vote and never will be. It was in the minds of a few who thought they represented the many. But the many repudiated the raising of the German issue and rebuked it with their ballots.

They will rebuke even more emphatically an organization or an individual which in the hour of the country's crisis fails to stand unmistakably for full patriotic service.

way. The Funabashi station is controlled by the Japanese government and has both civil and military operating staffs.

The U. S. naval service is to be entirely distinct from this, unless, indeed Uncle Sam should decide to take over all the coastal stations, as proposed by Secretary Daniels.

VOTE "YES" ON THE BONDS.

Tonight at 7:30 a rally on behalf of the proposed municipal bond issue will be held on Luso street, at the end of the Emma street carline. Voters throughout the Emma Square and Punchbowl districts should attend the rally, as the bond issue will be clearly explained, also the improvements upon which it is proposed to spend the money. Every section of the city will benefit by the use of the bond money, and the expense of the improvement will be spread over the city and county so that no taxpayer will be burdened.

Vote "Yes" on the bonds at the election February 21.

CARNIVAL TENNIS.

Don't miss the Carnival Tennis Tournament now being held on Bereftania Courts, ladies and gentleman of Honolulu. It is the greatest tournament ever staged here and some of the young local players are doing particularly fine work. Details on the sporting pages daily.

A few weeks from now several score passengers, landing from Honolulu on the chilly, wintry mainland, will wonder why they were scared into leaving the islands of sunshine.

Senator Works may be pardoned for blowing off a little steam now, as he is being retired from Congress and has only a couple of weeks longer to bulge into the spotlight.

"Carnival Goes On—President Angus." Of course it does. These are the Isles of Peace and there is no reason why the Carnival shouldn't go on.

"Good roads" is a more popular slogan every day.

RESOLUTIONS OF GERMAN AMERICAN ALLIANCE AROUSE SHARP CRITICISM

Reported Speech of Introducer of Resolution is Resented By Other American Citizens

Adverse criticism of action taken by the German American Alliance at a meeting held last night in Knights of Pythias hall and of remarks attributed to one of the speakers is being voiced today about the city. In business sections this criticism was outspoken and included not only the speaker but members of the alliance as well. Especially was this directed at Col. C. W. Ziegler of the National Guard.

In many quarters and in guard circles the criticism was less open and there was more reticence.

The meeting which has caused comment and discussion was one hastily called following mainland directions to consider and pass upon certain resolutions and those resolutions were adopted.

Meeting Hastily Called

A meeting of the German American Alliance was held last night following the receipt of the following cablegram on Tuesday from C. J. Hexamer, head of the national organization:

"Arrange peace meeting adopting resolution requesting congress to submit question of declaring war to referendum and send resolution to members of congress by wire and letter."

The meeting was called to order by Col. Charles W. Ziegler, who is vice-president of the local branch, acting in the absence of Dr. Paul R. Isenberg, the president. A resolution was read and its adoption moved by Dr. P. H. Schurmann and seconded by Carl du Roi. Dr. Schurmann speaking in support of the resolution, this was adopted as follows:

"Be it resolved by the Honolulu branch of the National German American Alliance at a meeting held Wednesday, February 7, 1917, attended by members, all citizens of the United States of America, that the secretary be instructed and is hereby directed to telegraph to Honorable Thomas R. Marshall, president of the United States senate, and Honorable Champ Clark, speaker of the United States house of representatives at Washington, D. C., the following petition:

"In the interests of peace the undersigned members of the National German American Alliance and citizen voters of the United States of America respectfully petition congress to provide that before any declaration of war be made against any foreign country, such proposed action be referred to the citizen voters of the nation for decision."

Schurmann repeats remarks. Dr. Schurmann, when seen today by a Star-Bulletin reporter, said that upon the introduction of the resolution at the meeting of the German American Alliance Wednesday evening he spoke as follows:

"We need not care so very much whether the president desires war or peace, because the declaration of war is an act of congress."

"But should congress have the power to declare war? No, certainly not! And especially so in the United States."

"We are telling the world that we are the most civilized and progressive of all nations. That civilization maintains a growing conviction that war is unjustifiable."

"We point with pride at our democratic form of government and say it has been found that war is in the highest degree inexpedient and destructive to the best interests of the human race and that this democratic form of government must be the means of abolishing war forever."

"Christian America tells us that although there are in the human heart principles of strife and human hatred existing, the Christian religion is gradually weeding out these seeds and planting seeds of peace to grow until they have covered the whole world."

"With those great ideals before us and deeply engraved upon our minds, why should we, the citizens of the United States, be forced, against our convictions, against our principles of humanity towards all mankind, against our better judgment, against all our religious teachings, to take up arms against our fellow men and Christian brothers?"

Believes People Should Decide. "The voice of the few individuals in Congress is not the voice of the people. And when we consider that many of our congressmen find pleasure and satisfaction in bringing about a state of war between our United States and Germany, it is now expedient that the question of war and peace should be left to a referendum of the people."

"What would then be the certain result? The horrors of war would be for all time banished from our soil, as a vast majority of the people of the United States would outvote the few unsightly vultures who feed and get fat on the blood of war."

Cites Australian Vote. "Cannot we learn from the Australians, who, in the very midst of war valiantly insisted on a referendum regarding conscription; who even demanded that the men in the trenches should be given the right to vote on this important question. The ballot was taken and heretofore in the trenches, begrimed and sickened by so much sight of gore and misery, voted six to one against it."

"Surely, what a country of five million souls carried through, a land subject to monarchial rule, we, the greatest democratic country in the world; we, a country of over one hundred million people, should be able to do as well."

"By a supreme effort we will, we can and we must demand a referendum, which is the only rational and fair method to decide that great question so vital to us all—the question of war and peace."

No Reference to Rebellion

Dr. Schurmann further told the Star-Bulletin that in his address he made no inferences as to the probability of the United States being drawn into a second civil war, stating that any announcement that such threats or intimations were made by him or by anyone else would be ridiculous.

Dr. Schurmann then added that other remarks attributed to him in the morning paper were made not at the meeting but in a conversation with a reporter subsequent to the meeting.

"Not for any particular reason I referred in that conversation to the Civil War to show merely the horrors of war that had been experienced by the United States more than half a century ago. The object of the resolution passed by the meeting was to show our loyalty to the United States, though our sympathies are with the German cause, which I think is natural. I further feel that we, as American citizens, have a right to ask a referendum."

Talks After Meeting

Dr. Schurmann said that of the published remarks attributed to him in his speech the following were not made in the meeting but in conversation with a reporter afterward:

"The same heart-rending conditions which prevailed during that awful and severe war of South against North are again rapidly taking shape all over our land. The storm is threatening and the deadly lightning may strike and destroy with terrific fury."

"To avert this threatening outbreak; to render it harmless; to harness it; that must be our work. We must not fail and we will not fail. Benjamin Franklin has taught us how to succeed."

"We hymns of German birth are indeed loyal Americans. Our oath to the land of our adoption; the land which has sheltered us and has not only given us and our families our daily bread, but has offered us again and again many golden opportunities to rise to undreamed of heights, will never be violated."

Col. Ziegler Makes Statement

Col. Charles W. Ziegler, when seen by the Star-Bulletin this morning relative to the meeting of the German American Alliance, said:

"The meeting was called upon cabled request addressed to Dr. Paul R. Isenberg, who is president of the local branch of the alliance. As vice-president I am acting during his absence on the mainland and therefore I called the meeting."

"At the opening of the meeting I distinctly stated that remarks must be confined to the resolutions themselves and they were so confined. Had Dr. Schurmann or anyone else attempted to voice some of the words that are attributed to have been spoken at the meeting, I should have immediately shut him off."

Col. Ziegler was shown the statement made by Dr. Schurmann as to what he actually did say at the meeting and corroborated that statement. He said the meeting was a short one and did not last over 15 minutes for debate on and passage of resolutions.

Says Meeting Patriotic

Continuing, Col. Ziegler said: "I have been an American citizen nearly all of my life and a member of the National Guard nearly 40 years, having joined in California in 1877. The idea that I would have permitted anything like the unpatriotic remarks attributed to Dr. Schurmann in his speech is ridiculous. The purpose of the meeting was patriotic and there are no more patriotic American citizens than those in the German American Alliance."

Carl du Roi Explains

Carl du Roi, who seconded the resolution, also said this morning that many of the remarks attributed to Dr. Schurmann by the morning paper, especially that concerning civil war, were not uttered by him at the meeting.

Oath of Allegiance to The U. S.

Allens who seek the privilege of American citizenship, on becoming naturalized take the following oath:

I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and disavow all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state or sovereignty, and particularly to—(here is inserted the name of the ruler)—of whom I have heretofore been a subject; and that I will support and defend the constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign or domestic, and that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same, so help me God!

Germans renounce allegiance to "William II, German emperor," natives of Great Britain and Canada to "George V, king of Great Britain and Ireland."

ing. "I paid strict attention," said du Roi, "and I certainly never heard any such remarks. I seconded the resolutions as they were passed, and that was all. The meeting lasted only about 15 minutes except for the signing of the resolutions."

Guardsmen Make Comment

Comments heard by guard and army men this morning over the matter did not sound commendatory of the action taken by Col. Ziegler, an officer in the National Guard, in presiding over a meeting of this nature at a time when diplomatic relations are broken with Germany or at any other time.

Brig-Gen. Samuel I. Johnson, the adjutant general of the territory, carefully refrained from making any statement in the matter, though it is believed that he will investigate it at once.

He intimated that he might make a statement after he had given further consideration to it.

Governor Pinkham called at guard headquarters this morning and conferred with the general.

PERSONALITIES

MRS. D. E. WILLIAMSON, wife of the managing editor of the Reno Evening Gazette, Reno, Nevada, left on the Matsnola for the mainland. Mrs. Williamson has been visiting her son and daughter in Honolulu. She was well pleased with the islands and hopes to come back some time to make this her home. Mr. Williamson is one of the best known newspapermen in the western states.

8.

The Rent Agent

THE rental department of the Trent Trust Company consists of two men whose time is devoted exclusively to the renting of properties listed and to the collection of rents.

A special automobile is provided for showing customers about.

This department makes a particular business of caring for properties for client, getting and keeping tenants, putting in necessary repairs, paying insurance and taxes, collecting rents, keeping the accounts of various properties, etc., for a stipulated fee.

Having an unusual number of clients who are constantly looking for new homes, and others who have places to rent, gives this department an enviable reputation.

The creation of TRENTOWN, Honolulu's tent city at Waikiki, to take care of the influx of Carnival visitors, is an example of the executive initiative of this department.

If you wish us to look after your property, or if you are looking for a new home, either to rent or to buy, you are invited to consult with our officials.

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